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31

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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50X1

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

50X1

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

50X1

COUNTRY USSR (Turkmen SSR)

DATE DISTR. 27 May 1955

SUBJECT City Plan of Ashkhabad

NO. OF PAGES 11

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

General

1. Ashkhabad, the capital city of Turkmen SSR, had a population of approximately 500,000 in 1951. The city occupied an area of approximately eight square kilometers and was served with one railroad, the "Transcaspian Railroad". An airfield called Grandanskiy Aerodrom (Civilian Airfield) (see enclosure, Point 21) was located north of Ashkhabad. Air traffic went to various points within the USSR, mostly to Moscow and Stalingrad.
2. Source did not consider Ashkhabad an industrial city, although he was able to pinpoint numerous minor industrial installations within the city limits. Source stated that Ashkhabad was known as a large wine producing center and was famous in particular for its "Ashkhabad-skoye Krepkoye" wine. Several military installations were located within and near the city limits (see enclosure for location).

Sanitation

3. Source believed that the Ashkhabad water supply was treated with chlorine but he was not sure. After collection, garbage was thrown in pits outside of town. When the pits were filled, they were covered and new holes were dug. Although the city had a sewage system, many buildings were not hooked up to the sewage system. In such cases, refuse from inside toilets was taken outside of town and spread on the fields. Source knew of no anti-mosquito measures other than the use of gauze screens over the windows.

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

50X1

1948 Earthquake

4. Source stated that during the earthquake on 5 October 1948, as many as 200,000 people were killed in the Ashkhabad area. Many soldiers were killed. The earthquake was sudden. A single shock severely damaged Ashkhabad. By June 1951, however, most of the city was rebuilt. Reconstruction of the central section was completed. Soviet soldiers were participating in certain building-construction.

Public Utilities

5. As of July 1951, there was no trolley system in Ashkhabad. All travel within the city was done by bus. There were three main bus routes (see sketch on page 11 for location of these routes). Pobeda four-door sedans were used as taxis in Ashkhabad. They were painted grey and carried the word taxi in the rear window.
6. There was sufficient water in the city but only government buildings had inside spigots; most houses had outside spigots. Altogether Ashkhabad was a very clean city. The streets were cleaned and sprayed with water once every day and the city was provided with a sewage system. There was only one hospital in Ashkhabad but every district of the city had a first-aid station (poliklinika) with one doctor and one or two nurses. Electric power seemed adequate but residential districts were not permitted to use electricity for heating purposes.

Security

7. According to source, all military government, and industrial installations were guarded 24 hours a day and the city was patrolled by police patrols at all times. Because Ashkhabad was located very close to the Iranian border, there were many MVD agents in the city. There was no curfew in Ashkhabad.

Legend to Ashkhabad City Plan

8. The enclosure to this report consists of an overlay of a city plan of Ashkhabad. Following is a legend for this overlay. Numbers in parentheses refer to numbers indicated on the overlay.
- (1) Courthouse, a stone, single-story building, dimensions unknown.
 - (2) Parking area for city-owned vehicles and for the city transportation office. The entire area, 300x500 meters, was surrounded by a stone wall approximately two meters high, 60 centimeters thick. This area was not guarded. At night the area was illuminated with electric lamps located on the four corners of the stone wall.
 - (3) Tikinskiy Bazaar, an asphalt covered area, 500 meters square used as a market place for vegetables and dairy products sold by peasants.
 - (4) Republikanskiy Stadium, 90x100 meters, constructed of gravel and grass. It was used mostly for soccer games. A wooden stand with a seating capacity for 600 to 800 people was located on the south side of the field. The field was not used at night.
 - (5) Police station No. 2, a stone, single-story "U"-shaped building 30x15x6 meters. This police station was responsible for the northern section of the city, called "Andreyevskiy Rayon". The building entrance was located on the west side. The building was not guarded.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-3-

50X1

- (6) Theater "Kim", an area approximately 400x200 meters on which was a single-story, stone building with tile-covered, gable-type roof. The dimensions of the building were approximately 70x40x9 meters. It seated approximately 500 people. Movies were shown continuously from 1400 hours to 2200 hours.
- (7) Terrain elevation, a gravel and grass covered area.
- (8) Excavation area.
- (9) Gravel-surfaced parking area, 600x200 meters, used by a truck for contracting service. The entire lot was surrounded by a barbed wire fence approximately two meters high. Within the area, source observed GAZ-51, ZIS-150, and ZIS-5 trucks, all of them painted black. At night the entire lot was illuminated by electric lights located at various places. This area was guarded at night by one civilian guard armed with a shotgun. All employees were civilian.
- (10) Public swimming pool, 100x50 meters. The pool area was surrounded by a stone wall approximately two meters high, 60 centimeters thick. The pool was open to the public from 0800 hours to 2000 hours each day.
- (11) Pervomayskaya ulitsa, a two-lane, asphalt street, approximately six meters wide.
- (12) Botanical garden, an area 1000x600 meters.
- (13) MVD headquarters, a single-story stone building. Source learned from hearsay that the building was occupied by MVD headquarters.
- (14) Military installation, an area 1000x600 meters. Source did not know the unit located there. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high and 55 centimeters thick. Within the installation source observed two three-story stone buildings with tile-covered, gable-type roofs. The dimensions of each building were approximately 90x40x18 meters. The buildings contained offices and recreation halls for soldiers. Enlisted men lived in tents located on the west side of the area. All officers lived in various places in the city. The entrance to this installation was located on the east side, on the Svoboda ulitsa (16). At night the entire area was illuminated by electric lights located in various places. One military guard armed with a PPSh was on duty 24 hours daily at the main entrance.
- (15) Race track, 500x300 meters. The race track was surfaced with gravel and grass. A wooden grandstand with a seating capacity of approximately 400 to 500 was located on the south side. The track was used mostly for horse and motorcycle races. The entire area was enclosed by a gravel and sod wall approximately 2½ meters high. The race track was not used at night.
- (16) Ulitsa Svoboda, the main street of Ashkhabad. It was a four-lane, asphalt street, approximately 10 meters wide. Telephone lines led along the south side of the street and electric power lines were on the north side. The street was lighted at night.
- (17) Silk processing plant. The entire area 400x200 meters, was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 60 centimeters thick. Within the area, source observed one four-story, stone building with a flat roof. Dimensions were unknown to source. The plant employed 500 to 700 females.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-4-

50X1

- (18) Kirov Park, referred to as "Park No. 2". This area, the largest park in Ashkhabad, was 500x200 meters. It was planted with native and tropical trees.
- (19) Housing for border guards, an area 70x40 meters, surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 60 centimeters thick. Within the area, source observed one stone, single-story building, 40x20x6 meters. It had a tile-covered, gable-type roof. Approximately 50 men lived there. They were dressed in olive-color uniforms and had green shoulder boards. The entrance to this installation, located on the east side, was guarded 24 hours daily by members of the border guard company armed with PPSH guns. The entire area was illuminated at night.
- (20) Ashgres Power Plant, type unknown. The plant building was two-stories high, approximately 40 meters wide, and 10 meters high. It had a flat roof. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high and 65 centimeters thick. The entrance, located on the south side, was guarded by one civilian guard armed with a rifle. This area was "Off Limits" to all unauthorized personnel.
- (21) Airfield, northwest of Ashkhabad.
- (22) Winery, a two-story, stone building, 30x20x10 meters. It had a flat roof. No windows observed in the building. The entrance, located on the south side, was guarded by a civilian guard armed with a shotgun. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 60 to 70 centimeters thick. The entire area was illuminated at night.
- (23) Grain warehouse (ZagotZerno). Within the area which was 400x400 meters, source observed four buildings used as warehouses. Each building was approximately 100x30x6 meters. They were built of stone, were metal covered, and had flat roofs. The area was heavily guarded 24 hours daily. Source observed four guards during the day armed with shotguns. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 60 to 70 centimeters thick. Broad-gauge railroad track led into this area from the east side. The entrance to the installation was located on the west side. At night the entire area was illuminated by floodlights which were located at various points on the stone wall.
- (24) Machine-repair shop. The entire area, 300x400 meters, was surrounded by a brick wall two meters high, 50 centimeters thick. The installation had three buildings, two of which were used for workshops. Each workshop was approximately 40x20x6 meters, built of stone. They were single-story, tile-covered buildings with gable-type roofs. The third building was the administration building. It was a 20x20x6 meters, single-story, red-brick building with a tile-covered, gable-type roof. The installation was the largest repair shop for farm machinery in Ashkhabad. The entrance to the installation, located on the north side, was guarded by one civilian guard armed with a shotgun. On the gate was a large metal sign, reading "RemZavod". At night this area was illuminated by electric floodlights which were located on the four corners of each building.
- (25) Housing area for the employees of the textile plant (27). The area was 700x400 meters. Source stated that all employees who lived there had to build their own houses. Most of the buildings were constructed of wood and clay and had tile covered roofs. In 1951 there were approximately 800 to 1000 people living there. No telephone lines led to this area.

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

CONFIDENTIAL

-5-

- (26) Cherzhuiskaya ulitsa, a two-lane, asphalt street approximately six meters wide. Telephone lines ran along the west side of the street. The street was illuminated at night.
- (27) Textile plant. The entire area was 600x300 meters. It was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high and 55 centimeters thick. The entrance to the plant area was located on the south side. Source observed only one building in the area, a four-story stone building, approximately 100x40x25 meters. A 38-meter-high clock tower, built of red brick, was located on the south side of the building. The tower was 5x5x33 meters. The plant area was guarded 24 hours daily by civilian guards, two during the day and three to five during the night. All were armed with shotguns. This area was illuminated at night.
- (28) Furniture factory. The entire area, 800x500 meters, was surrounded by a gravel and clay wall, two meters high, 60 centimeters thick. Approximately 150 male and 75 female workers were employed at the factory. At night the entire area was guarded by two to four guards armed with shotguns. The buildings were illuminated by electric lights. The factory manufactured furniture for home use. Within the area were the following eight buildings, two of which were under construction.
- Administration building, 25x25x6 meters, a single-story stone building with a tile, gable-type roof.
 - Assembly shop No. 1, 100x30x5 meters, a stone, single-story building with a tile gable-type roof.
 - Assembly shop No. 2, 50x20x6 meters, a single-story stone building with a tile-covered, gable-type roof. No machinery was inside of this building.
 - The warehouse, club building, and wood carving shops were standard-type wooden barracks, 20x20x6 meters. They were covered with flat wooden roofs.
- (29) Warehouse 206. The entire area, 800x400 meters, was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 30 centimeters thick. Within the area were two stone, single-story buildings with tin-covered, gable-type roofs. Each building was approximately 300 meters long, 20 meters wide. The area was guarded 24 hours daily by military and civilian male guards armed with rifles. The officer of the guard was an army colonel. Each door of the warehouses was sealed. This area was "Off Limits" to unauthorized personnel. At night the entire area was illuminated by electric lights, located at various places in the installation.
- (30) Ulitsa Chekhova, a two-lane, cobble street, six meters wide. A telephone line ran along the east side of the street, power lines on the west side.
- (31) Candy factory. The factory area was enclosed by a gravel and clay wall, two meters high, 55 centimeters thick. The entrance to the factory was located on the east side and was guarded by a civilian guard armed with a shotgun. Source observed three buildings within the area. Each building was stone, single-story, 50x20x6 meters. They had pitch-covered, gable-type roofs. The factory employed approximately 150 people, mostly female. At night the entire area was illuminated by electric lights located on each building.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-6-

- (32) Belinskaya ulitsa, a two-lane, cobble street, six meters wide. Telephone and electric lines ran along the sides of the street. This street was illuminated at night.
- (33) Housing area, 800x600 meters, for the employees of the grain elevator (35). Within the area were houses constructed by the employees. The average house was 6x3x6 meters. They were built of stone, and had tile, gable-type roofs.
- (34) Ulitsa Telliya, a two-lane, cobble street, six meters wide. Telephone lines ran along the south side of the street. The street was illuminated at night.
- (35) Flour mill and grain elevator. Source observed seven buildings within the area which was 800x800 meters. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall, two meters high, 40 centimeters thick. The installation was guarded by four male guards armed with shotguns. At night the area was illuminated by electric floodlights located at various points of the installation. Source stated that the installation employed approximately 400 men. The flour from this mill was sent to various places in the USSR.
- (36) Shoe factory, an area 200x200 meters. Two stone buildings, both of them single-story, were located within the area. The buildings were 50x20x6 meters and had tile, gable roofs. The warehouse was 45x10x6 meters and had a tile, gable-type roof. The installation employed approximately 50 people, mostly male.
- (37) Bakery (KhlebZagot), an "L" shaped building, 40x9x6 meters, single story, stone, with a tile, gable-type roof. The area, 400x400 meters, was surrounded by a stone wall 2½ meters high, 40 centimeters thick. The area was guarded by one civilian guard armed with a shotgun.
- (38) Leather factory. The 100x50-meter-factory area contained one single-story building 50x20x6 meters, with a tile, gable roof. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 40 centimeters thick. It was guarded by one male guard armed with a shotgun. The factory employed approximately 50 men.
- (39) Garage and auto-repair shop. The area, 300x300 meters, contained three buildings, all of them stone, single story, with tile-covered, gable-type roofs. Within the area, source saw various types of vehicles, most of them ZIS-150, GAZ-51, Moskvich, GAZ-AA, and ZIS-5 types. All vehicles were painted black. The installation belonged to the Ash-Pishch-Torg (Ashkhabad food market). At night the entire area was illuminated by electric lights.
- (40) Meat packing plant (Myaso Kombinat). Source stated that within this area, 400x400 meters, were located ten buildings. Source was able to describe one building. The main shop, an "H"-shaped concrete building, was a single-story building, 100x100x70 meters, which had a flat, tin roof. In this building were located a butchery shop, refrigeration shop, packing shop, and other shops not known to source. The entire area was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high and 40 centimeters thick. The installation was well guarded day and night. The guards, civilian males, were armed with rifles. The entire plant was "Off Limits" to all personnel. The installation employed approximately 1000 people, half of whom were female. Source observed many military vehicles coming daily to the plant. They were Studebaker trucks driven by soldiers. Source believed that products from this plant were distributed all over the USSR, mostly for military purposes.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

50X1

-7-

- (41) Cotton fabric plant. Source observed only one building in the 300x200 meter area, the administration building. This installation was surrounded by a stone wall two meters high, 40 centimeters thick. The employees were mostly Turks. The plant manufactured cotton cloth and shirts which were sold in Ashkhabad.
- (42) Brick works. This area, 1500x1500 meters, had no buildings. Source observed mostly small wooden shacks, each approximately 20x20x6 meters. The employees were mostly prisoners from a concentration camp located near Ashkhabad (51). Prisoners were guarded by the members of MVD armed with PPSH.
- (43) Grain warehouse. Within the area, 700x300 meters, were four stone buildings, all were single-story buildings, approximately 100x40x6 meters, with tile, gable roofs. The area was guarded by four to six guards armed with shotguns. At night the entire area was illuminated with electric floodlights.
- (44) Tile factory, a stone single-story building, 20x6x6 meters, with a flat roof. This plant was out of operation in 1951.
- (45) Zakovskiy housing area, an area, 400x200 meters, on which stood 10 to 12 barrack-type buildings. They were made of brick and had flat roofs. Each barrack was 50x10x6 meters and had approximately 20 rooms.
- (46) Lumber yard, an area 40x300 meters, surrounded by a barbed wire fence. The entrance to the yard was located on the south side. The yard was used mainly for storing wood and coal. At night the area was illuminated by electric lights.
- (47) Military camp, an area 700x400 meters. Within the area there were two barrack-type buildings, 50x10x6 meters, built of stone. They were used as quarters for soldiers. The area was used as a training field for infantry. Source could not describe the types of uniforms which were worn by the military personnel of this unit. At night the area was guarded by two military guards armed with PPSH.
- (48) Transcaspiian Railroad. A four-track, broad-gauge track ran into the city from the east and west, but inside the city limits there was only a single-track running east-west. The Transcaspiian Railroad was the only railroad serving Ashkhabad. Source observed large fuel trains arriving in Ashkhabad from Krasnovodsk daily, with approximately 20 to 25 tank cars in each transport. When they returned there were 60 to 70 tank cars per train. Source could not describe any of these tank cars or locomotives.
- (49) Kuybyshevskaya ulitsa. See (30) in this report.
- (50) Housing area, wooden huts occupied by Turks.
- (51) Concentration camp, two separate areas, each measuring 500x200 meters enclosed by a stone wall three meters high, 55 centimeters thick, topped with barbed wire approximately 50 centimeters high. Source heard that within the area there were six to eight barrack type buildings. The entire area was guarded by MVD personnel. Guard towers surrounding the camp were approximately 150 meters apart. The towers were wooden structures approximately eight meters high. Guards were armed with rifles with fixed bayonets. Source estimated that there were 1000 prisoners in each area. Most of these prisoners were serving

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-8-

long terms, 25 to 50 years or life. Most of the prisoners were political prisoners and murderers. Visiting hours were on Thursdays for one hour. Prisoners were employed mostly at various construction areas in Ashkhabad.

- (52) School No. 21, a stone, single-story building, 70x20x6 meters, with tile, gable roof. It was a co-educational public school. Teachers were all female. The principal of the school was Mrs. Ala Dimitrovna, who was 40 years old, heavy set, and about 155 centimeters tall.
- (53) Cemetery, approximately 1000x1500 meters.
- (54) City lumber yard, an area 900 meters long and 100 meters wide on the south side, 300 meters wide on the north side. This area was used for wood construction material. The entire area was surrounded by a gravel and clay wall two meters high, 50 centimeters thick.
- (55) City jail. The entire area measured approximately 900 meters north to south, 500 meters east to west on the north side, and 150 meters east to west on the south side. The main entrance was located on the east side. One three-story, stone building, with a tile gable roof, stood inside the area which was surrounded by a stone wall three meters high, 50 centimeters thick, topped with barbed wire approximately 140 centimeters high. Wooden guard towers were located around the fence, approximately 100 meters apart. All guards were members of the MVD and were armed with rifles with fixed bayonets. Source believed that this prison was only for political prisoners.
- (56) "Locomotive" Stadium, an area 90x120 meters, surfaced with gravel and grass. It was used mostly for soccer games. The field was not used at night.
- (57) Railroad Park No. 3, an area 300x200 meters. The entire area was planted with tropical and native trees.
- (58) Railroad station, a stone, two-story building, 80x40x13 meters, with a tile gable roof. Source stated that there were three main train routes, Ashkhabad-Moscow, Ashkhabad-Krasnovodsk, and Ashkhabad-Novosibirsk.
- (59) Railroad-repair shop. Source observed only one stone building, a hanger-shaped building with a glass roof, approximately 250x400x15 meters. The installation was used for a locomotive repair shop.
- (60) Ulitsa Telmana, a two-lane gravel street, approximately 10 meters wide. This street was not illuminated at night.
- (61) Glass factory. Source had no information on this factory.
- (62) "Krasnyy Metalist" Steel Plant. No information.
- (63) "Krasnyy Molot" Steel Plant. No information.
- (64) Brewery. Source saw only a brick smoke stack approximately 40 meters high.
- (65) Pioneer Garden, an area 100 to 150 meters square, grass surfaced, with asphalt sidewalks.
- (66) Central Park No. 1, an area 300 meters square, gravel and grass surfaced, planted with native and tropical trees.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

-9-

50X1

- (67) Mohammedan Mosque, a circular, single-story building built of stone. It was 30 meters in diameter and had a round steel roof.
- (68) "Chudozestvenny" Theater, a stone, single-story building, 100x50x6 meters, with a tile gabled roof. The theater seated 500 people.
- (69) Oktyabrskaya ulitsa, an asphalt, one-way street, approximately three meters wide. The street was not illuminated at night.
- (70) Karl Marx Square, a 300-meter-square, gravel-surfaced area.
- (71) Russian Bazaar, a 200-meter, asphalt-surfaced square. It was a market place for various farm products which were sold by peasants.
- (72) Proyektnaya ulitsa, a six-meter-wide, cobblestone street. Source stated that Proyektnaya ulitsa was not paved, but was filled with large boulders (bulyzhniki) buried in the ground. This street covering was crude and did not make a solid surface.
- (73) School No. 15 1/n Chekhov.
- (74) (75) Unidentified.

Installations Not Indicated on Town Plan

- 9. A railroad repair shop was located in the eastern part of Ashkhabad. Source had never seen it but a friend of his worked there. The shop allegedly was able to handle major and minor repairs to locomotives and rolling stock. The workers were primarily students from an industrial school (remeslennoye uchilishche) in Ashkhabad. Source did not know what the railroad repair shop was called.
- 10. A tobacco warehouse was located next to the leather factory which is located (38) on the town plan (see sketch on page 12). It occupied an area approximately 50x200 meters. The area was surrounded by a two-meter-stone wall and enclosed a stone storage shed with a wooden roof, a water basin (baseyn), and a workman's house. Entry into the enclosure was through wooden doors. The watchman was a woman who lived in a small building in the corner of the enclosure. She had a large shepherd dog which ran in the enclosure.

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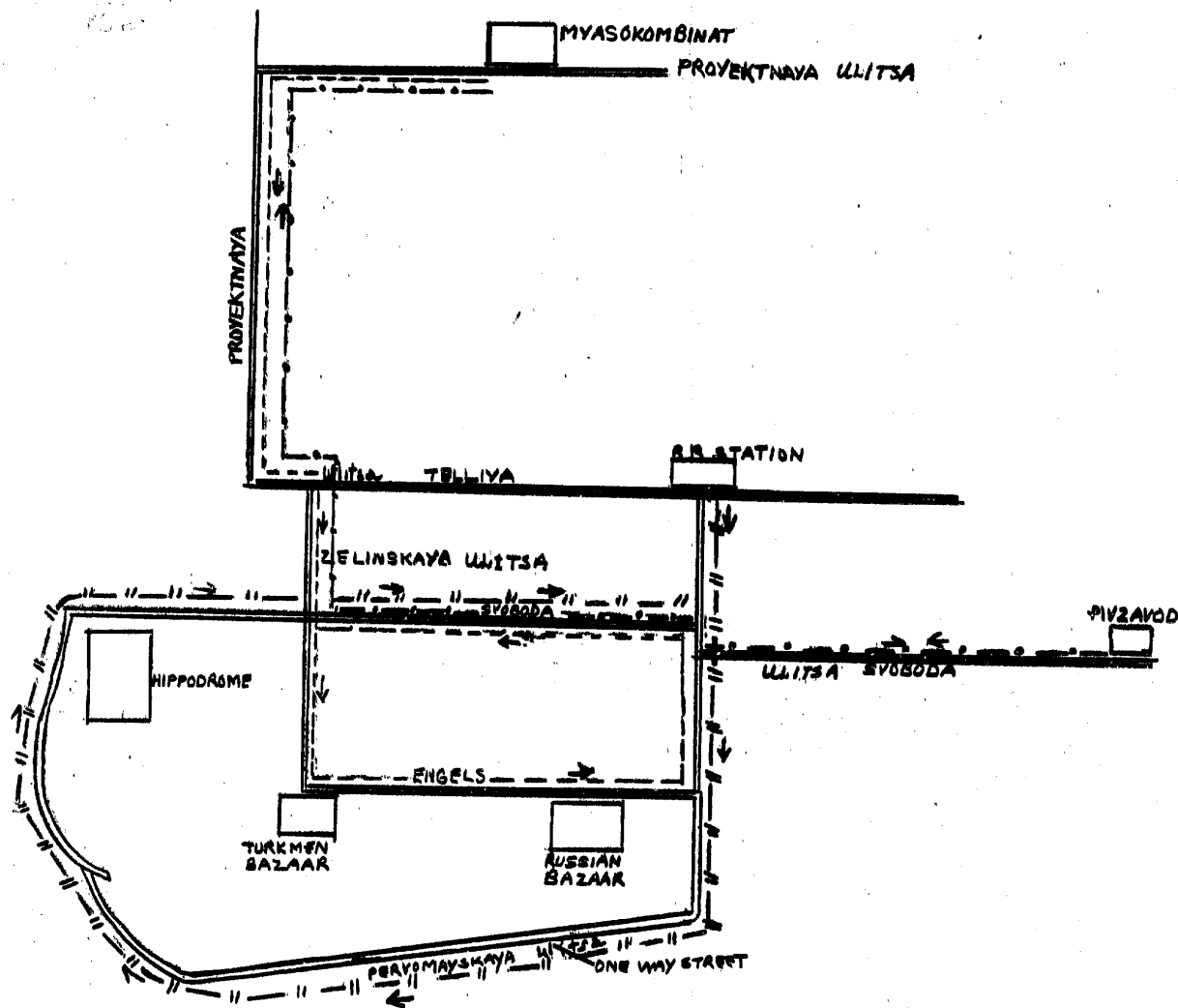
Enclosure: City Plan of Ashkhabad.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
-10-

50X1

Bus Routes in Ashkhabad
(not to scale)



Legend

- LINE 1
- . - . - LINE 2
- - - - - LINE 3

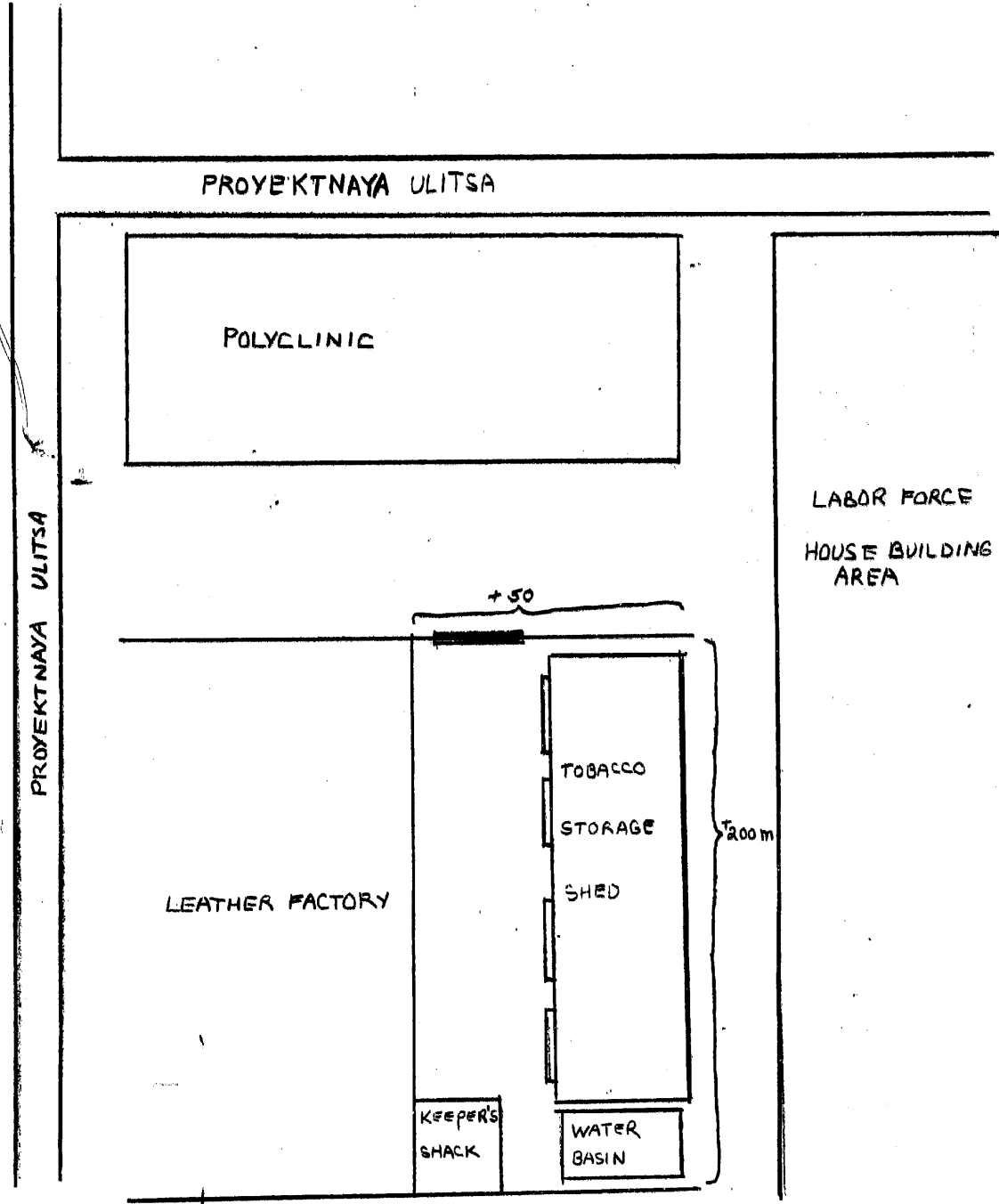
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CONFIDENTIAL
-11-



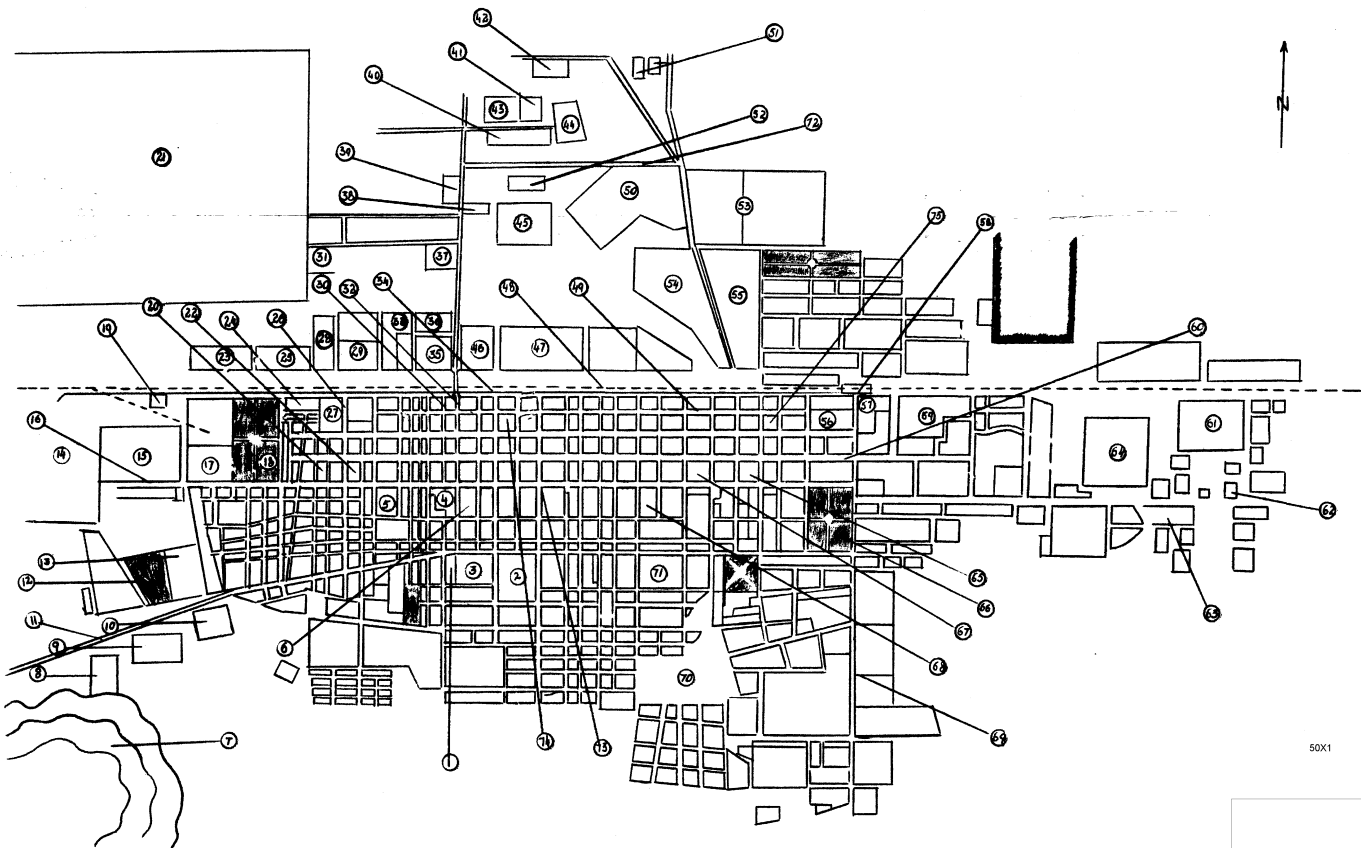
50X1

Location Sketch of Tobacco Warehouse
and Vicinity



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50X1



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